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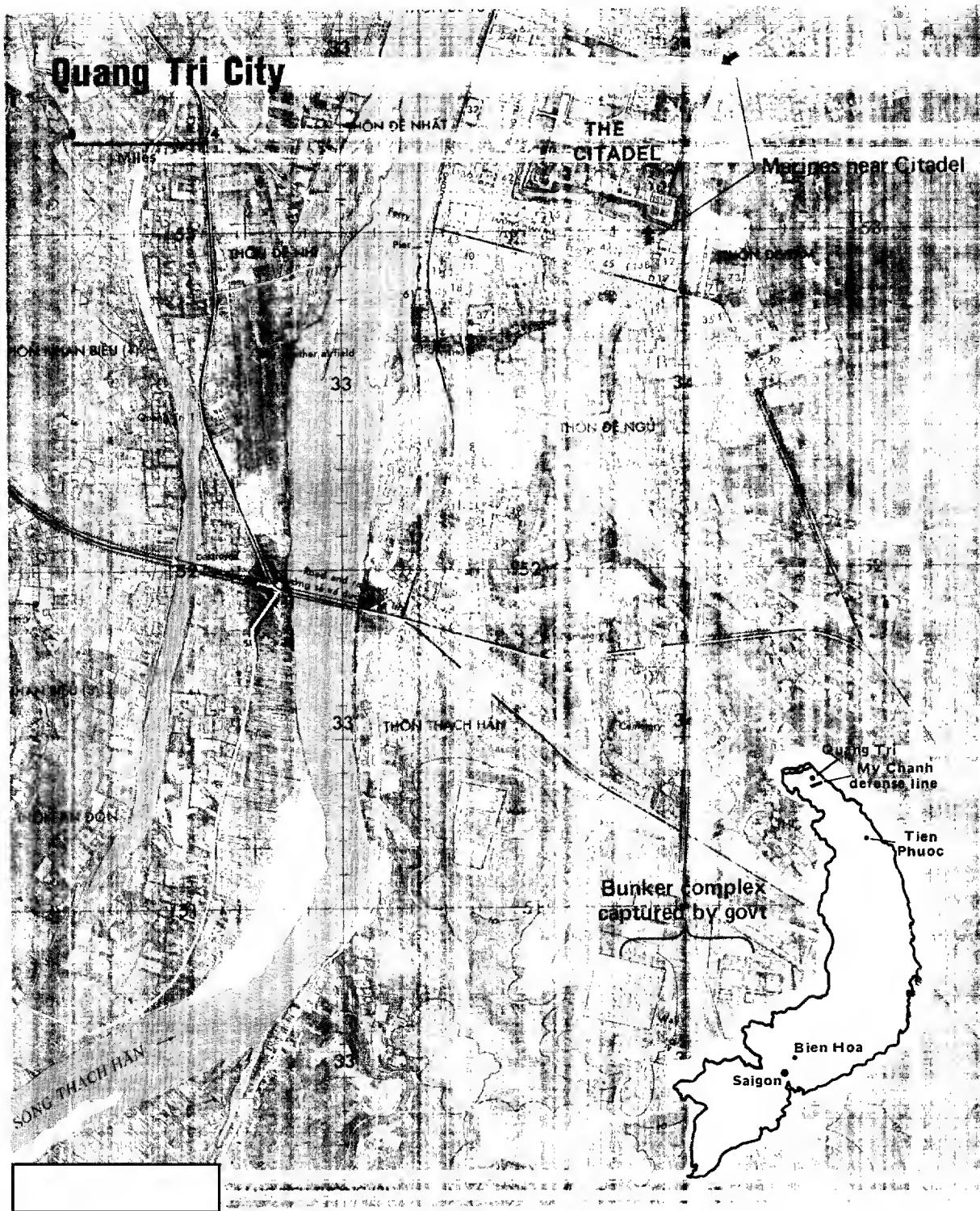
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SOUTH VIETNAM: Heavy fighting continues in Quang Tri City as government forces press a major campaign to recapture the Communist-held citadel.

South Vietnamese Marine and Ranger units are encountering stubborn enemy ground resistance to their joint effort launched 9 September, but have managed to move close to the fortress on two sides. In the southern portion of the city, South Vietnamese paratroopers have pushed the Communists from a heavily fortified bunker complex, cutting a major enemy supply route into the citadel and clearing the way for government troops to move against enemy positions along the west side of the city--the last Communist-controlled corridor into the citadel.

There is some evidence that the Communists may try to interdict South Vietnamese supply routes and attack government positions near the My Chanh defense line to the south. [] a substantial Communist troop movement is under way along the western end of the defense line.

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In Quang Tin Province, South Vietnamese regulars and territorials abandoned Tien Phuoc district capital 9 September after three days of Communist shellings and repeated ground assaults.

Ground action remained generally light in other areas of the country, with mostly sapper raids and sporadic shellings reported. There were substantial ammunition losses at Bien Hoa air base yesterday, along with light to moderate damage to nearly 100 aircraft. Casualties in this action, which may have been the work of enemy saboteurs, were light, however. []

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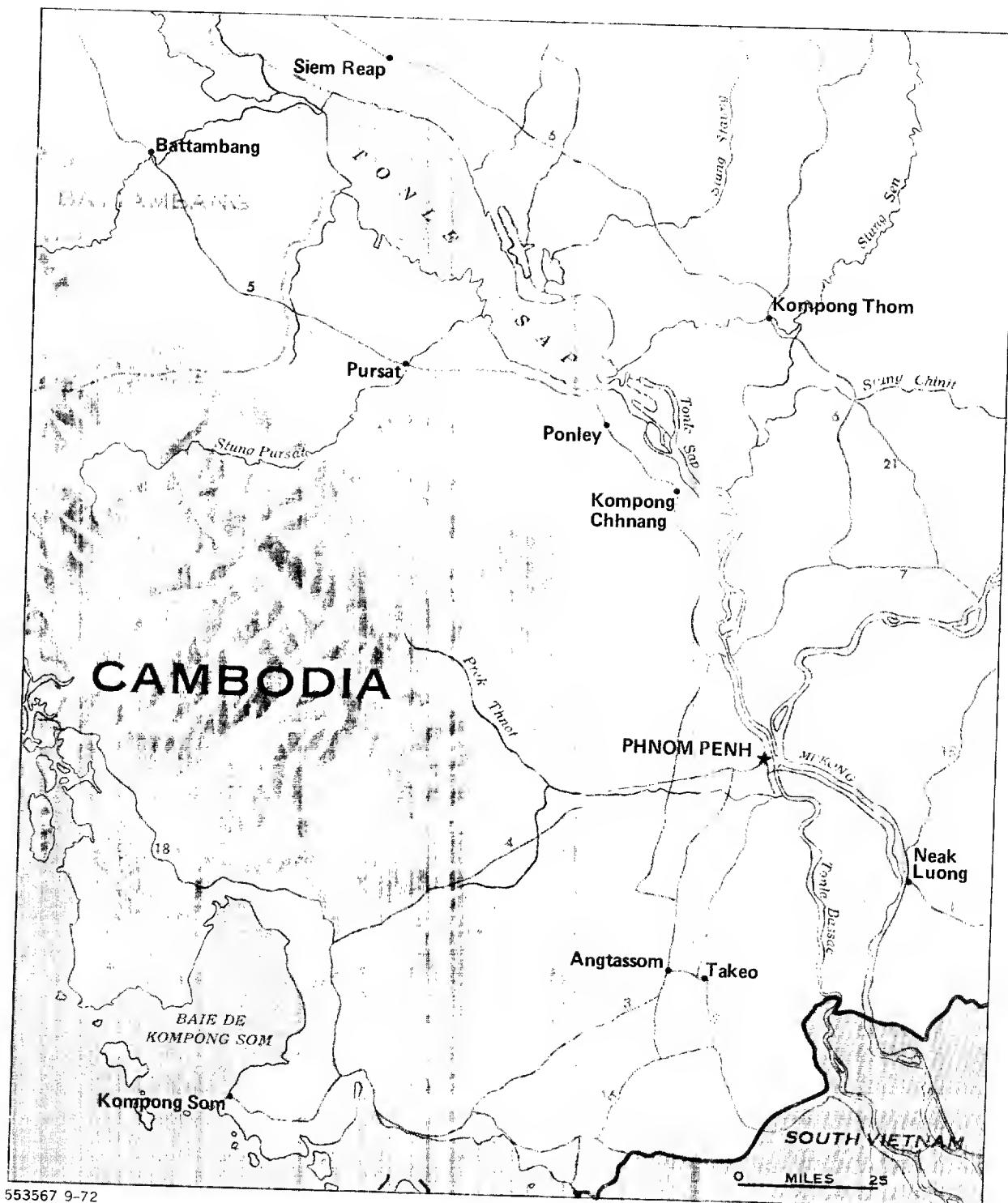
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CAMBODIA: The government's efforts to ease the rice shortage appear to have reduced tensions in Phnom Penh.

Relative calm returned to the capital over the weekend following the institution of tight security measures and the confinement of the military to the barracks. Commercial activity has resumed, but on a much reduced level. The rice situation remains serious. On Saturday, the government distributed about 450 tons of rice throughout Phnom Penh from its own stockpile and plans to resume distribution today. Phnom Penh usually consumes about 400 tons of rice a day; at the present rate, government stocks will be exhausted in four to five days.

The Cambodians are airlifting about 40 tons of rice a day from Battambang Province, and the US will airlift 60 tons per day until larger stocks can be moved up the Mekong. The anticipated arrival of 2,400 tons of rice from Thailand within the next ten days will also help alleviate the situation.

In the meantime, more government forces have been assigned to the long-delayed operation to re-open Route 5. It was the Communists' closure of this route on 18 August that led to the rice crisis. Elements of two Cambodian Army infantry brigades, supported by armored vehicles, moved to Kompong Chhnang City over the weekend. Beginning today, they are to participate in a coordinated drive against Communist positions along the highway in the vicinity of the enemy-controlled town of Ponley. [redacted]

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ISRAEL-LEBANON-SYRIA: Military action has subsided following the Israeli air strikes into Lebanon and Syria and the subsequent Israeli-Syrian dog-fight.

The Israeli chief of staff, General Elazar, has implied further Israeli action by publicly referring to Israel's "continuous war" against the fedayeen.

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Meanwhile, the UN Security Council convened yesterday in response to a Syrian request for discussion of the Israeli air strikes. The session adjourned last evening without agreeing on any resolution. [redacted]

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NOTE

PANAMA: Preliminary agreement on purchasing the US-owned utility company that the government had seized in June has reduced the likelihood that Panama will attack the US at the opening session of the UN General Assembly. This nationalistic issue was resolved last week before it became a state-to-state problem when Boise Cascade officials won government agreement to pay \$22.5 million for the Panamanian subsidiary. The Panamanian foreign minister had earlier indicated to the US ambassador that he would not attend the General Assembly session. He stated, moreover, that Panama had no intention of raising the canal treaty issue this year in any forum that could disturb bilateral relations. [redacted]

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